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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 /064 W
---------- 060281
O R 161812Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0171
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08026

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, UR, FR, UK, WB, GW
SUBJECT: SOVIET RESPONSE TO ALLIED STATEMENT ON BERLIN
AND DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK.

REF: A) USUN 1605; B) STATE 15938

SUMMARY: REPORT OF SOVIET MAY 12 LETTER TO UN SEC GEN RESPONDING TO ALLIED LETTER OF APRIL 14 ON BERLIN DESIGNATION IN UN DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK HAS RECEIVED WIDE PRESS PLAY IN FRG. BONN GROUP WILL DISCUSS SOVIET LETTER DURING WEEK OF MAY 19, BUT WE WISH TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS NOW, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT IS LIKELY THAT THE SECRETARY MAY RECEIVE PRESS QUESTIONS ON THE ISSUE DURING HIS FRG/BERLIN VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. MAY 12 LETTER FROM SOVIET UN PERM REP TO UN SEC GEN (TEXT REPORTED BY USUN IN REFTEL A) HAS RECEIVED
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COVERAGE IN ALL MAY 16 FRG MAJOR NEWSPAPERS. MOST REPORTS

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CHARACTERIZE SOVIET LETTER AS REPLY TO ALLIED LETTER
IN WHICH THE THREE ASSERTED THEY CONTINUE TO
EXERCISE RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO EAST BERLIN, THE PRESS
STORIES SAYING THE SOVIET LETTER CLAIMS
THAT THE ALLIES HAVE NO RIGHTS THERE. PRESS STORIES
ALSO PARTICULARLY COVERED PORTION OF SOVIET LETTER THAT
EVENTS OF POST-WAR PERIOD SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERA-
TION AS SERVING CAUSE OF NORMAL INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION. NO ANALYSIS IN THE PRESS OR SIGNIFICANT
EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS YET APPEARED. CDU/CSU PRESS
SERVICE RELEASED ON MAY 15 STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF
BUNDESTAG INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VON WRANGEL,
WHICH CALLS SOVIET LETTER A MASSIVE STEP DIRECTED
AGAINST BERLIN'S ESSENTIAL INTERESTS, AND NOT A
STEP ON THE PATH OF DETENTE.

2. REGARDING LETTER ITSELF, IT STRIKES US AS SOMEWHAT
OF AN ESCALATION OVER PUBLIC EXCHANGES ON BERLIN IN THE
RECENT PAST. MAJOR "NEW" POINTS, THAT BERLIN RIGHTS OF
ALLIES ARE NOT "ORIGINAL" BUT ARE BASED ON AGREEMENTS
BUT THAT THE THREE POWERS CANNOT CLAIM ADVANTAGES UNDER
AGREEMENTS WHICH THEY THEMSELVES VIOLATED, ARE ACTUALLY
THOSE OF 1950S DUSTED OFF FOR NEW DAY (E.G., SEE SOVIET
NOTE TO U.S. OF NOV 27, 1958). ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST
OF SOVIET TEXT IS REHASH OF MORE RECENT LINE RAISED A
NOTCH OR TWO BY ADDITION OF ADJECTIVES FOR EMPHASIS.
EVEN WHERE A FIRST GLANCE WOULD MAKE IT SEEM THAT A NEW,
TOUGHER LINE HAS BEEN TAKEN, THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY THE
CASE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LETTER SAYS THAT THE QA AND QD
DO NOT AFFECT "IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER THE POSITION OF
BERLIN" BUT THIS IS FOLLOWED WITHOUT A BREAK BY "AS THE
CAPITAL OF THE GDR . . . " ALSO, THE PARA REGARDING THE
ESSENTIALITY OF TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ACTUAL
SITUATION IN THE AREA SEEMS VERY CAREFULLY WORDED AND IS
RATHER FLAT (MANY PRESS REPORTS DID, IN FACT,

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 IO-10 SAM-01 OMB-01

/064 W

---------- 060348

O R 161812Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0172
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08026

OVERSIMPLIFY AND OVERSTATE THIS PASSAGE).

3. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE PRESS MAY RAISE THE SOVIET LETTER WITH THE SECRETARY OR HIS PARTY DURING FRG/BERLIN VISIT. IT SEEMS TO US THAT PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF LETTER AT THAT LEVEL WOULD FOCUS UNDUE AND UNDESIR-ABLE ATTENTION ON IT AND TEND TO FUEL DESIRES OF THOSE WHO MIGHT FAVOR POLEMICAL ALLIED REPLY IN UN. THIS FORUM, OF COURSE, IS POOR PLACE FOR US AND ALLIES TO ARGUE MERITS OF OUR BERLIN POSITION: THE "FACTS' OF THE MATTER AS PERCEIVED BY THOSE WITH LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF OR INTEREST IN BERLIN ARE CLEARLY AGAINST US. IT ALSO SEEMS TO US THAT OUR GOAL SHOULD BE TO STRICTLY PROTECT LEGAL POSITION WITHOUT TRYING TO SCORE POINTS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD SUGGEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO LIMITING ANY RESPONSE ON ISSUE BY THE SECRETARY TO
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NON-SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT, PERHAPS PREFACED BY REMARK THAT US POSITION, WHICH IS CONTRARY TO THE SOVIET POSITION ON MATTER, IS WELL-KNOWN. SECRETARY MIGHT THEN SAY THAT WE AND THE OTHER ALLIES WITH RESPONSIBIL-ITIES IN BERLIN, TOGETHER WITH THE FRG, ARE STUDYING THE MATTER IN CLOSE CONSULTATION. SUCH HANDLING, IT SEEMS TO US, WOULD ALSO HELP TO RESERVE MAJOR PRESS PLAY OF VISIT TO REMARKS WHICH THE SECRETARY WILL MAKE IN SPEECH IN BERLIN.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, PUBLICATIONS, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750173-0114
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750542/aaaablig.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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05 JUL 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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